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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/755,432	01/05/2001	Marise Chan	60001.0006US01	4762
27488	7590	01/04/2005	EXAMINER	
MICROSOFT CORPORATION C/O MERCHANT & GOULD, L.L.C. P.O. BOX 2903 MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55402-0903			SAIN, GAUTAM	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2176	

DATE MAILED: 01/04/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/755,432

Applicant(s)

CHAN ET AL.

Examiner

Gautam Sain

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 19 July 2004.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1) The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

1-1) Claims 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 16, 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Microsoft Excel 2000 (version 9.0.4402 SR-1, copyrighted 1985-1999; hereafter referred to as 'Excel').

In regard to independent claim 5, Excel teaches *receiving a category indication for the number* (ie., Format cell)(Excel, page 4).

Excel teaches *receiving a locale identifier for the number* (ie., locale identification in in a numbered folder in MS-Office that is accessible to Excel)(Excel, page 2).

Excel teaches *cross-referencing the category indication and the locale identifier to determine a plurality of sample number formats with a plurality of underlying number formats* (ie., LCID with MS Office components can support various languages which are cross referenced with MS Office applications)(Excel, page 9).

Excel teaches *displaying the plurality of sample number formats* (ie., format cell list of sample dates)(Excel, page 4).

Excel teaches *receiving an indication of a selection of one of the plurality of a sample number formats* (ie., user selects a item from the sample list)(Excel, page 4).

Excel teaches *storing the underlying number format of the selected sample number format in the association with a value for the cell, wherein the underlying*

number format of the selected sample number format and the value for the cell comprise the numbe" (ie., the General number format is the default number format, user can reset a number format to the General format; association is shown by changing only the appearance without changing the number)(Excel, page 1, item 1a, 1c, 1d)

In regard to dependent claim 6, Excel teaches *receiving the category indication from a selection from a Category dropdown menu* (Excel, page 4).

In regard to dependent claim 8, Excel teaches *displaying the plurality of sample number formats in a Type menu of a Format Cell dialog* (Excel, page 4).

In regard to dependent claim 9, Excel teaches *receiving an indication from the Type menu of the Format Cell dialog* (Excel page 4).

In regard to dependent claim 10, Excel teaches *a computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing the steps recited in claim 5* (Excel, page 1-7).

Claim 16, Excel teaches *wherein the category indication and the locale identifier determine a calendar type of the number* (ie., Formatting number in cells to switch between Gregorian and Hijri calendars)(Excel, page 8).

In regard to claim 17, Excel teaches *wherein the category indication and the locale identifier determine a number shape of the number* (ie., customizing the display of number and text)(page 1, item 1e)(ie., shrink font size to show all data in a cell, ... bold, italics, color or other text format ...these features change the number shape when chosen by the users)(Excel, page 3).

2) The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

12-1) Claims 1, 2, 3, 4, 15, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Microsoft Excel 2000, in view of Davis et al (US 5657259, issued Aug 1997).

In regard to independent claim 1, Excel teaches *determining the value of a number* (ie., cell values in Excel to perform calculations)(Excel, Page 1, Item 1a).

Excel teaches *reading a worldwide number format of the number, wherein the worldwide format includes a locale specifier of the number and a base format of the number*, (ie., number 10893 in the formula base is a base number format, also the General format is the default format to which various formats can be applied)(Excel, Page 1, item 1a-1d)(ie., Local identification numbers for language-specific files stored along with Office folders)(Excel, page 2).

Excel teaches *using the base format and the locale specifier to render the number* (ie., general number format, custom number format)(Excel, page 1, items 1b, 1d, 1e).

Excel prior art cited does not expressly teach, but Davis teaches therein applying the worldwide number format to the number (ie., tools for converting numerical information and associated information from one system to another ... on language to another)(col 2, lines 1-6).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Excel to include converting numerical information in one language to another as taught by Davis, providing the benefit of an improved number formatting for converting numerical information (col 1, lines 60-67).

In regard to dependent claim 2, Excel teaches *the worldwide number format comprises a locale identification used to categorized different parts of the world and determine what language in which to render the number* (ie., locale identification number is used to categorized different parts of the world and determine which language to render files) (Excel, page 2, Microsoft Excel Help screenshot).

In regard to dependent claim 3, Excel teaches *the worldwide number format further comprises a number shape including a number shape value that indicates that shape in which to render the number* (ie., customizing the display of number and text)(page 1, item 1e)(ie., shrink font size to show all data in a cell, ... bold, italics, color or other text format ...these features change the number shape when chosen by the users)(Excel, page 3).

In regard to dependent claim 4, Excel teaches *worldwide number format further comprises a calendar type including a calendar type value that indicates which calendar should be used to calculate a date from the value of the number* (ie., Formatting number in cells to switch between Gregorian and Hijri calendars)(Excel, page 8).

In regard to claim 15, Excel teaches *worldwide number format is stored in association with the value of the number* (ie., number format where value is stored and

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displayed in the formula bar that Excel uses to perform calculations)(page 1, items 1a, 1b).

2-1) Claims 7, 11, 12, 13, 14, 18, 19, 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Excel (as cited above), in view of Microsoft Windows NT (version 3.3/4.0, copyrighted 1981-1998; hereafter referred to as “NT”).

In regard to dependent claim 7, Excel teaches *receiving the locale identifier* (ie., LCID in Excel)(page 9).

Excel does not expressly teach, but Windows NT teaches *from a selection from a Locale dropdown menu* (Windows NT, page 1; Excel page 2, page 4).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Excel to include a drop down selection menu with locale identifier in a locale dropdown menu as taught by Windows NT, providing the benefit of allowing users to easily pick locale identification numbers for language just as easily users pick the locale in Windows NT (NT page 1) and just as easily as users pick cell formats in Excel (Excel page 4).

In regard to independent claim 11, Excel teaches “a category menu comprising a plurality of number categories to select the number” (Excel, page 4 teaches the selection boxes and page 2 teaches a ‘list’ of LCID; additionally, it was very common in the art, at the time of the invention to create selection boxes for users to pick from a list of selection).

Excel does not expressly teach, but Windows NT teaches “a Locale menu comprising a plurality of locales to select as the local identification for the number” (NT,

page 1 teaches locale to select in a menu; Excel, page 2 teaches locale identification numbers).

Excel teaches “a Type menu comprising a plurality of sample display formats to select to display the number” (Excel, page 4).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Excel to include a locale identifier in a locale dropdown menu as taught by Windows NT, providing the benefit of allowing users to easily pick locale identification numbers for language just as easily users pick the locale in Windows NT (NT page 1) and just as easily as users pick cell formats in Excel (Excel page 4).

In regard to dependent claim 12, Excel in view of NT teaches “plurality of sample display formats is generated in response to a selection of one of the plurality of number categories and a selection of one of the plurality of locale” (Excel, page 4, teaches number categories and selection of one of the plurality in response to sample display; Excel, page 2 teaches locale; NT, page 1 teaches selecting a locale from a menu).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Excel to include a locale identifier in a locale dropdown menu as taught by Windows NT, providing the benefit of allowing users to easily pick locale identification numbers for language just as easily users pick the locale in Windows NT (NT page 1) and just as easily as users pick cell formats in Excel (Excel page 4).

In regard to dependent claim 13, Excel teaches *each of the plurality of sample display formats has a corresponding underlying number format (ie., General format)(Excel, page 1, item 1d).*

In regard to dependent claim 14, Excel teaches *a selection of one of the plurality of sample display formats causes the corresponding underlying number format of the selected sample display format to be applied to the number (Excel, page 1, items 1a, 1b, 1e, 1f).*

In regard to dependent claim 18, Excel teaches the *underlying number format includes at least one of a calendar type of the number and a number shape of the number (ie., Formatting number in cells to switch between Gregorian and Hijri calendars)(Excel, page 8)(ie., customizing the display of number and text)(page 1, item 1e)(ie., shrink font size to show all data in a cell, ... bold, italics, color or other text format ...these features change the number shape when chosen by the users)(Excel, page 3).*

Claim 19, Excel teaches *wherein the number shape is determined based on the selection of one of the plurality of number categories and the selection of one of the plurality of locales (ie., the format of a number can be picked from a category (ie., date) and the user can select which type of the display for the date number to display. The type box shows the shape of the date number or a currency category would show options of currency number shapes, which use can choose based on their location, as localization is taught by Excel on page 2 LCID)(page 4).*

Claim 20, Excel teaches *the calendar type is determined based on the selection of one of the plurality of number categories and the selection of one of the plurality of locales* (ie., Format menu, Cell, Number tab allows users to specify the calendar type with the date field that they chose from the categories. By entering 'B1', the user selects a different calendar type than entering 'B2')(page 8).

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 7/19/04 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. ***

Applicant's arguments with respect to claim 1, 2, 3, 4, and 15 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection. Examiner includes the Davis reference that teaches the amended portions of the claims. Examiner does not agree with the arguments. The General number format as taught by Excel is used worldwide as a base format

Claim 5. Applicant argues that cross referencing is not taught with Excell. Examiner disagrees. It is inherent for the Excel application in a MS-Office environment that supports various languages to cross reference with Office and Excel (Excel, page 9).

Claims 2-4, 6, 8-10 and 13-14, Applicant argues that these claims are allowable because they depend on claims 1 and 5. Examiner rejects claims 1 and 5, and thus disagrees with the applicant.

Claims 7, 11, 12.

Applicant argues that NT does not cure the deficiencies of Excel. Examiner disagrees. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Excel to include a drop down selection lists and menu with locale identifier in a locale dropdown menu as taught by Windows NT, providing the benefit of allowing users to easily pick locale identification numbers for language just as easily users pick the locale in Windows NT (NT page 1) and just as easily as users pick cell formats in Excel (Excel page 4). NT reference is relied upon to teach the dropdown selection technology which can be combined with selecting locales. The selection of locales and Locale ID's are well established in Excel.

New Claims, Applicant argues that neither reference teaches a category indication and a locale identifier for shape of number. Examiner disagrees, Excel teaches the category and local identifier, the shape of the numbers depends on the selection of category (ie., for a date number, the date number shape 11052004 is a different number shape than 11/05/04). Applicant should more clearly specify the shape of numerals, as Examiner interprets numbers to contain a plurality of numerals and any variation in numerals in a string of numerals is a different number shape.

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).


A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Gautam Sain whose telephone number is 571-272-4096. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9-5 EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Joseph Feild can be reached on 571-272-4090. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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SANJIV SHAH
PRIMARY EXAMINER